

ABSTRACT

Recombinant negative-strand viral RNA templates
are described which may be used with purified RNA-
directed RNA polymerase complex to express
heterologous gene products in appropriate host cells
5 and/or to rescue the heterologous gene in virus
particles. The RNA templates are prepared by
transcription of appropriate DNA sequences with a DNA-
directed RNA polymerase. The resulting RNA templates
are of the negative-polarity and contain appropriate
10 terminal sequences which enable the viral RNA-
synthesizing apparatus to recognize the template.
Bicistronic mRNAs can be constructed to permit
internal initiation of translation of viral sequences
15 and allow for the expression of foreign protein coding
sequences from the regular terminal initiation site,
or vice versa.

20

25

30

35